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### **Rejection Notice for the Request for Proposal (RFP) #2009-01 Statewide Outreach Plan for the Voters First Act**

The State Auditor rejected all bids received under RFP #2009-01 because the proposals submitted were too varied with regard to the level of detail in both the methodology and the cost proposals. The Bureau of State Audits' evaluation committee concluded that the original RFP did not ask for sufficient detail to fairly assess and compare the technical and cost merits of the proposals presented. Therefore, after careful review and consideration of the bids, the State Auditor determined that it was in the best interest of the State to reject the bids and re-issue the RFP under RFP #2009-02.

The re-issued RFP contains a sufficient level of detail to allow for appropriate comparisons in determining cost-effectiveness and cost-adequacy. In addition, RFP #2009-02 sets a minimum level of service for the Statewide Outreach Plan and requires greater detail with regard to how the costs apply to each segment of each bidder's proposal. Finally, the technical merit of each proposal will be evaluated at the same time as the evaluation of the cost to provide the services proposed so that a new evaluation committee can best determine which proposal will provide the highest level of statewide outreach at the lowest cost to the State.

The State Auditor believes that the changes were necessary to ensure that the Statewide Outreach Plan accepted is capable of meeting the requirements of the act by soliciting the broadest public participation possible for the redistricting process while honoring her fiduciary responsibility to obtain services at the lowest, reasonable rate.

**Margarita Fernandez, Chief of Public Affairs**

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